



NHTSA's Child Safety Seat Ease Of Use Rating System



RETAILERS

Starting on January 30, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration will publish a new rating system for Child Safety Seat Ease of Use. NHTSA will now use a five-star rating system to inform consumers how easy certain features are to use on child safety seats. The new rating system DOES NOT measure safety or performance of a child safety seat in a crash.

We are announcing the improved ratings at a press event, and we will provide the new ratings information to consumers through our Web site, www.nhtsa.gov.

Your salespeople, cashiers, and customer service representatives may receive questions from consumers. Below is a general summary of the improved rating system.

What it is...

The five-star Ease of Use Ratings system uses expanded rating criteria that focus on the ease of using and installing the car seat, and on the clarity of the labels and instructions. The seats will each receive an overall star rating as well as individual star ratings in four categories: Securing the Child, Vehicle Installation Features, Labels, and Instructions. Five stars represent the highest ratings, meaning excellent features for Ease of Use, and one star signifies the lowest ratings, a seat with poor features for Ease of Use.

What it isn't...

The new rating system DOES NOT measure safety or performance of a child safety seat in a crash. ALL child safety seats rated by NHTSA are certified to meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards and strict crash performance test requirements. Any certified seat will provide good protection in a crash – if it is used correctly. The star system only rates how easy certain features are to use.

Information

It is important that your employees who deal directly with consumers understand that all seats that are certified to meet Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standards (look for a certification label on the seat) are safe in crashes. Sales staff can assist customers by advising them that the new five-star rating system is intended to help them choose a model that will be most convenient for them to use.

In the short term, consumers will be getting information about the new five-star rating system from media coverage and on www.nhtsa.gov. In the next few months, information about the rating system is likely to appear in product advertising and on packaging of new child safety seats.